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RECREATION HORSE USE OPPORTUNITIES

on the

OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents recreational horse users' needs from their standpoint and lists opportunities to fulfill those needs on the Okanogan National Forest in North Central Washington. The needs and opportunities were developed through interviews with selected opinion leaders of the local and statewide horse-using community and recreation specialists on the Forest.

The need for management to develop a better understanding of the recreationists' social behavior is discussed. This knowledge is useful in providing better service to the user and understanding the ramifications to, and of, other resource management activities.

An implementation schedule which takes advantage of identified opportunities is proposed.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Horse use on the Okanogan National Forest has been a tradition since before the Forest was proclaimed in 1907. Within the past four or five years there has been concern expressed by the recreation horse-using public that the Forest has not been responsive to their needs and, in fact, was managing recreation opportunities in an anti-horse atmosphere. This is a false perception. Recently there has been better communication between horse users and Forest Officials and several cooperative projects have been started.

This paper presents needs of recreational horse users from their standpoint and proposes opportunities to fulfill those needs. Information was obtained through interviews with selected opinion leaders from the local and statewide horse-using community.

Traditionally, recreation horse use on the Okanogan National Forest, and probably on most western Forests, has been pack trips into Wilderness' and other non roaded areas. This is changing as horse users obtain expensive recreation vehicles, horse trailers and better bred horses. They are looking for places to camp with their horses and opportunities close by for day riding, preferably with loop trails. This type of activity is appropriate through a broader range of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum than the traditional semi-primitive nonmotorized and primitive end of the continuum represented by Wilderness and non roaded areas.

Three categories of horse user are discussed: (1) the traditional trailhead user, (2) the horse campground user, and (3) the dispersed site user. Each has specific needs, with the dispersed site user needing no more than a wide place in the road or a low road bank to unload. It is pointed out that many trailheads need overnight camping with minimum facilities for keeping stock and having fires. This would accommodate users who have to travel a considerable distance to the Forest and need a place to camp before they leave for and when they return from a pack trip.

The need for a better understanding of customers, that is, the recreating public, is discussed in terms of providing for their needs. This includes having up-to-date information about opportunities as well as conditions of facilities, such as trails. The ramifications of the social aspects of recreation and the impacts on recreation and other management activities are discussed.

RECREATION HORSE USE OPPORTUNITIES
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INTRODUCTION

Horse use on the Okanogan National Forest, in North Central Washington state, (figure 1) has been a part of the work and recreation scene even before the Forest was formally established in 1907. It was only recently that forest officials found they did not have a good idea of the needs and expectations of the recreational horse user.

Reaction to direction in the proposed "Forest Plan" by trail users, hikers, as well as those using horses, showed that their needs were not being met. Also the last two or three years have been severe fire years in the Okanogan area and restrictions were put in place which prohibited campfires except in developed campgrounds and the Wilderness. As there are no facilities for horses in the Forest's developed campgrounds, many horse users felt they were being restricted from using their National Forest.

As Marion Clawson (1985) points out, a great many individuals engage in outdoor recreation on public lands, all of whom have differing needs and objectives for their recreational experience. This paper deals with one small segment of the outdoor recreation population -- recreational backcountry horse users. Though they are a small portion of the total recreation population, they are important users of National Forests. On the Okanogan, and other Forests, there has been a long tradition of using horses, mostly as a means of transportation into the backcountry. This practice continues, but with the popularity of horses expanding, and many people are there just for the pleasure of riding.

The importance of the horse industry in the State of Washington was emphasized when the 1986 and 1987 State Legislatures provided budgets for the Washington State Horse Council. While the Council's primary purpose is to assist in the marketing and promotion of the Washington horse-breeding industry (Jones, 1988), it also has an obligation, as pointed out in its information brochure, to the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington. The Council has provided this support by being involved in the resolution of issues affecting recreational horse use.

Objectives

There are three primary objectives of this paper:

1) Determine the needs of the recreationist using horses on the Okanogan National Forest.

2) Find what opportunities are available, with emphasis on new opportunities, for meeting the recreation horse user's needs.

3) Prepare an implementation schedule, for inclusion in the "Forest Plan", to develop the opportunities available. This schedule will provide the opportunity to use and maintain partnerships with local and statewide horse user groups.

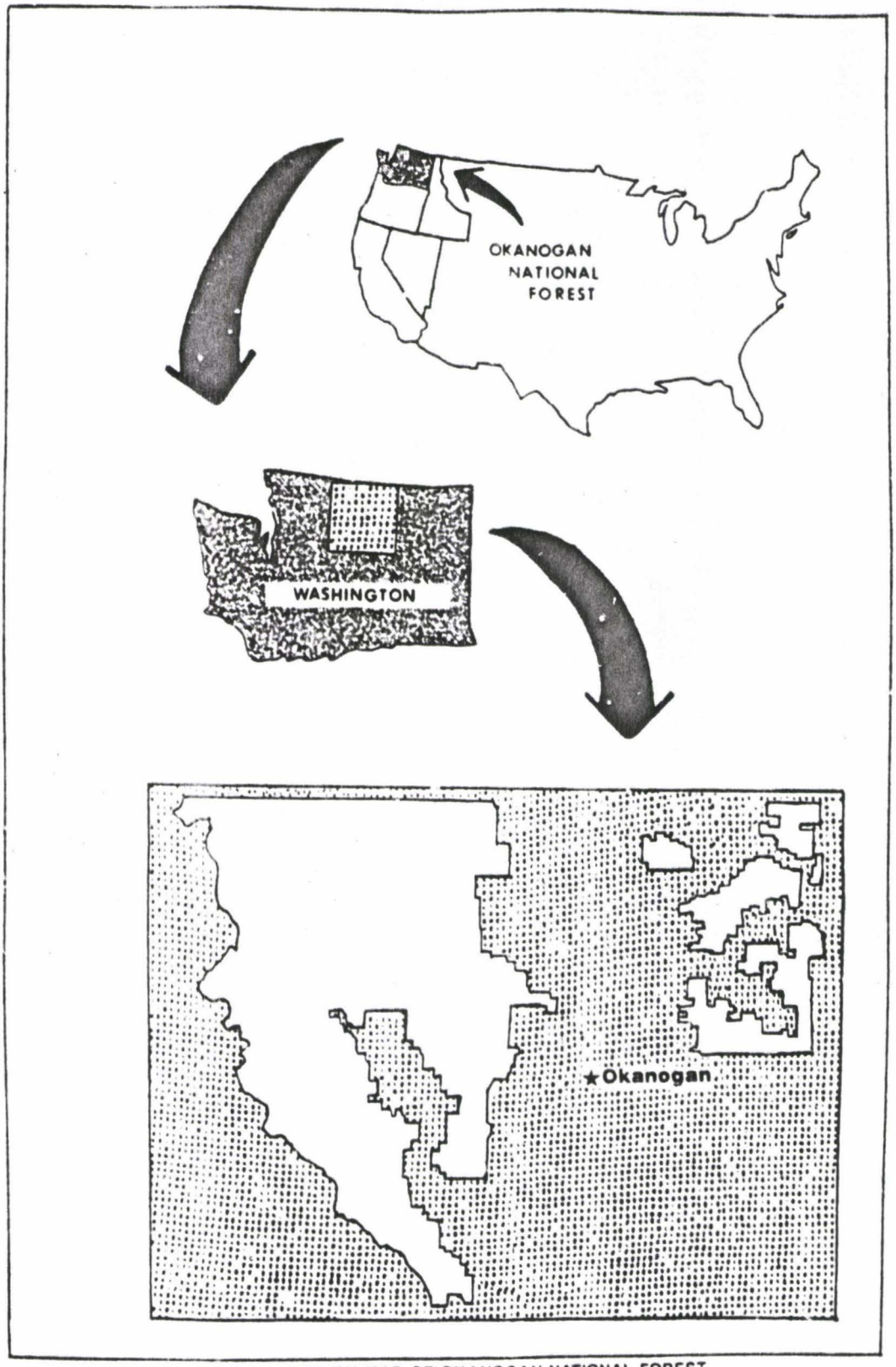

FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP OF OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST

Literature Review

Literature pertaining directly to the use of horses in outdoor recreation is sketchy at best. A considerable amount of recreation literature was surveyed looking for material that might be applicable to the project. Articles that appeared to be appropriate because they dealt with recreation motivation, planning or conflicts in outdoor recreation were sought out.

Since the research literature found did not specifically relate to horse use recreation it had to be interpreted for the recreational horse use situation. Information that did pertain to horses was largely related to Wilderness and delt more with conflicts than the needs and expectations of the user.

A basic premise of this paper is that managers of outdoor recreation are providing a service to the user -- in this case recreationists with horses. Thus the manager needs an understanding of the sociological aspects of outdoor recreation. Because much has been written about the motivation, behavior, and expectations of the recreationist a review of this literature is helpful in understanding the recreating public.

Driver, in his paper **Towards a Better Understanding of the Social Benefits of Outdoor Recreation Participation** (1976), "... proposes that recreation resource managers need to give more attention to the benefits that a person derives from participation in recreation activities." Five groups, or types, of knowledge are listed that must be considered by outdoor recreation planners and managers: Resource-Location, Historical Use, Economics, Administrative-Political, and Behavioral.

Two of these are especially relevant to this paper -- behavioral and historical use knowledge. Recreational horse users have changed (or are changing) their behavior patterns in that many are now more interested in day riding than in backcountry pack trips. While this change has been going on, forest officials have been looking at historical use patterns and have not been proactive in providing for the horse user's changing needs. Driver also points out that this tendency is one of the deficiencies of relying on historical use in recreational planning. It also, perhaps, prevents the manager from seeing opportunities to help solve overuse problems in some of the more traditional areas visited by horseback.

If recreation managers are going to be responsive to the user's needs, then a better understanding of why choices are made is needed. Proceedings of the 1984 Northwest Science Association annual meeting contain numerous papers on the importance of understanding recreation choice behavior.

In these proceedings, Clark and Downing (1984) tell us there are two reasons managers need to understand the process of making recreation choices: "(1) to recognize when and how integrated resource management activities ... impact specific kinds of recreation opportunities, in positive and negative ways; and (2) to recognize when specific recreation goals and objectives can be achieved without unnecessarily constraining the management of other resources."

Resource management decisions do affect where the recreationist goes and the quality of their experience. By recognizing this, the manager can plan activities in a way that will provide a better service to the public.

Several commission papers prepared for the National Recreation Strategy Project (Dwyer et al; Gehr et al; Tyler et al; and Buscher et al, 1987) all stress the theme that to provide service to the customer, the recreating public, it is essential to have a better understanding of what the customer wants.

"Because of ongoing changes in society we must continually update our perceptions of our customers." "... Information should be collected both for traditional and nontraditional user groups to prevent stereotyping of those groups that change over time" (Dwyer, 1987).

"The key to identifying the actual recreational needs of all visitors is to work closely with user groups.... In this way, we can insure that all National Forest Services and facilities are designed to recognize the diversity of our forest visitors" (Gehr, 1987). These themes reinforce what horse users said when they were interviewed and show that a better understanding of the impact social forces have on outdoor recreation is needed by Forest managers, along with their traditional understanding of the physical setting, if they are going to provide better service to the user.

Driver (1976) describes four sets of variables he feels need more objective measures in order to help the manager understand the recreationist using the Forest. Briefly, these variables are:

1. Attributes ... of the physical (and social) setting ...
2. Type and number of recreation **experiences sought** from specific recreation environments ...
3. **Characteristics of potential and actual recreationists** having demands for different types of recreation experiences ...
4. Personal experiences and benefits **realized** from specific recreation opportunities.

Perhaps more important than having objective measurements is simply an understanding by the manager that there are four variables and that they interrelate differently for different users (even within a single user group) and that they may change over time. The horse-oriented recreationist is a good example. As stated before, management and many horse users themselves have not kept up with the changing needs of those using the Forest for recreational pursuits. In past times the interest was ways to get to the backcountry (wilderness) for pack trips of varying lengths. Now as the horse user buys expensive recreational vehicles, horse trailers, and uses better bred horses there is more of a need for loop and shorter trails radiating out of destination campgrounds. And, these opportunities do not have to be in the semi-primitive or primitive part of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. They are being actively sought over the entire opportunity spectrum.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), has been in the literature for more than forty years (Stankey et al, 1986). It has really only been within the last ten years that it has been used as a planning and management tool by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Most current literature on ROS also has come within the same period of time (Stankey et al, 1986).

ROS is primarily concerned with the recreational setting, providing a continuum of settings from urban at one pole to primitive at the other pole. To understand the importance of ROS to management, it is necessary to know what a recreation opportunity is and what composes the setting. The recreation opportunity has several similar definitions in the literature. Stankey and Brown, (1981) define it as "a chance for a person to engage in a specific recreational activity, within a specific environmental setting to realize a predictable recreation experience .

The recreation opportunity has three distinct aspects: (1) activities, (2) settings, and (3) desired experiences (Driver and Brown, 1978; Stankey and Brown, 1981; and USDA Forest Service, 1986). The setting, which is the basis of ROS, has three primary elements: physical, social, and managerial (Stankey and Brown, 1981; and Stankey, 1986). It is the setting over which management has the most influence. Management activities can alter all three elements of the setting; for example, physical by logging, social by making access easier or harder, and managerial by regulation. It is important to note that ROS is not a quality continuum. Quality is a measure of how well a setting meets the recreationist's desires and needs (Clark and Stankey, 1979).

ROS has application in:

- Forest and outdoor recreation planning
- Analyzing the consequences of management actions, including:
  - actions that result in inconsistencies within a particular setting;
  - assessing impacts of recreation allocations on other resources;
  - assessing impacts of other resource activities on recreation opportunities; and
- Providing information to the user and from the user to the manager (Driver and Brown, 1978; Clark and Stankey, 1979; and Stankey and Brown, 1981).

In providing information to the user, ROS has applicability in the development of Recreation Opportunity Guides (USDA Forest Service, 1986). As Driver and Brown put it (1978), "As consumers, they will have better information about their market place."

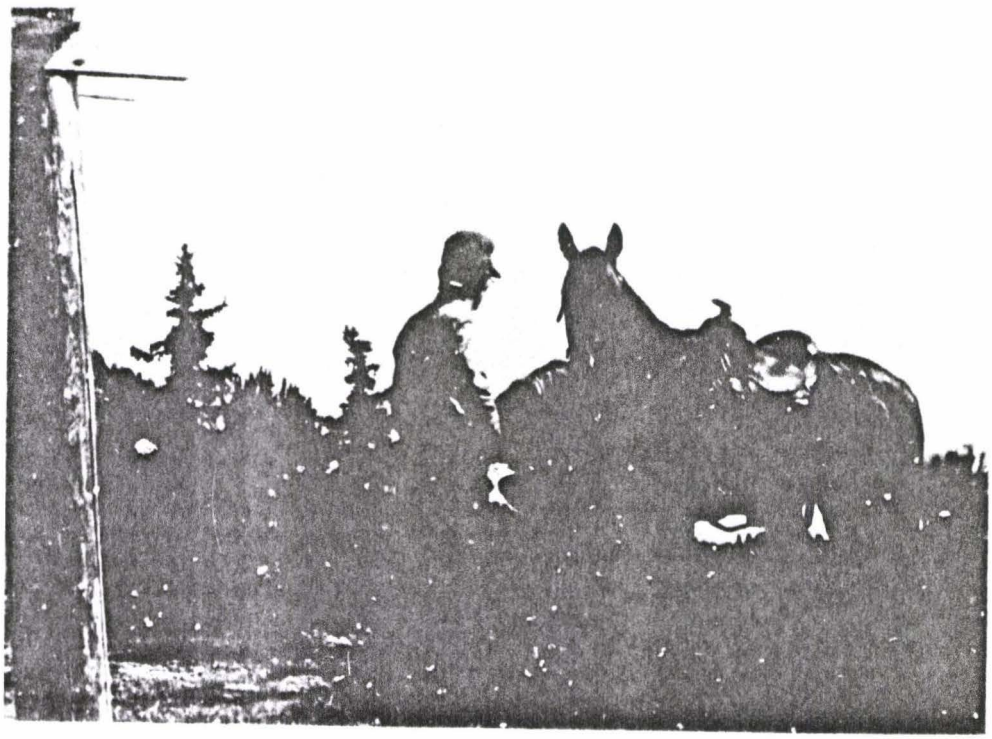

Figure 2. Many recreational horse users are more interested in day riding opportunities than in back country pack trips.

Methodology

Research has shown that recreationists and managers often have different ideas of what the recreationists needs are (Clark et al, 1971). For this reason selected horse users and Forest recreation managers were interviewed in preparation of this paper.

Key opinion leaders of the local Backcountry Horsemen of Washington chapters were selected, with the help of Ranger District personnel, for questioning on their wants and needs. In addition to the local people, the Executive Director of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and one out-of-area member of the Backcountry Horsemen's Board of Directors were also selected. All were more than happy to participate.

Before conducting the interviews, a set of questions was developed to assure consistancy in the interviews. It also helped in consolidation and analysis of the information received.

The Executive Director of the Backcountry Horsemen was questioned by phone while all others were interviewed in their home or at a Forest Service office. These informal interviews each began with a description of the project and why it was being done. In addition to notes taken in response to the questions, notes were kept throughout the conferences on opinions or other information expressed.

The writer, also had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Adventists Horsemen's Club, which also is interested in horseback recreation on the National Forest. During the meeting the project and its process were discussed. Additional helpful information was obtained.

Besides querying horse users, information was sought from recreation specialists on the Ranger Districts and in the Supervisor's Office. The interviews were designed to get the specialists' ideas on what the horse-oriented recreationist needed and where there were opportunities for them. One of the District people interviewed is an active horsewoman who spends much of her summer off the job riding on the Forest. She provided good insight into the needs of the horse user as well as where opportunities for riding on the Forest could be expanded.

Interviews of Forest personnel followed the same format used for the recreationists. In addition, Forest Recreation specialists were asked about their concerns with horse-related recreation.

Information from the interviews was consolidated and summarized. It was then used, along with general information received during the interviews and from the literature reviewed, to develop conclusions and recommendations.

FINDINGS

Current Situation

Communication between the recreational horse user and Forest personnel has improved in the last two years. One person credited the start to an open meeting the Forest Service had with the horsemen in 1986. This probably helped, but the formation of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington chapters in the Methow and Okanogan valleys provided a collective voice for the recreational horse user. These two chapters are local organizations with which the Forest can work instead of individuals who often have conflicting views and do not speak for the horse using community as a whole.

Through efforts of Twisp Ranger District personnel and the Methow Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen, a horse camp is being planned in the Twisp River drainage. Under this partnership the Forest Service and the Backcountry Horsemen are planning and constructing the site. Other co-operative efforts between the two groups are also taking place.

The Okanogan Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen has nearly completed the construction of a new trailhead facility at the Tiffany Mountain/Clark Ridge trail. The Forest Service has also worked with the Trail Riders of Oroville and the Ghost Riders of Omak who have been active with volunteer projects. All indications are that these types of partnerships are being enthusiastically supported by all parties and will continue.

The most recent (1979) Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) shows that those using this part of the State for horseback recreation are 100 percent satisfied with what is available (SCORP 1979). This is probably because of the large mileage of trails available for horse use, as well as the traditional thought that horseback recreation in this part of the State consists of packing into the backcountry or Wilderness. SCORP's assessment of the level of satisfaction is obviously out of date, as problems of the past few years indicate.

Horse Users' Needs and Expectations

What the individual horseback rider needs when using the National Forest is almost as varied as there are horse users -- from a simple trailhead (or no trailhead) for the day rider, to a completely developed campground with facilities for keeping horses over several nights. John Currie, recreation technician on the Tonasket District, puts recreational horse users into three categories, according to their needs. These three categories are:

1) The trailhead user. This is the person who uses the trailhead to get into the backcountry or Wilderness for pack trips.

2) Horse campground user. These people are interested in day rides, preferably on loop trails in and out of camp, and want developed campground facilities with a place to keep their horses near their camp.

3) Dispersed site user. Facilities for this user are not needed. They can unload from a trailer or on to the road cutbank and ride out. These usually are local people.

The classifications suggested here may have use when planning for the horse user along the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

Almost universally horse users and Forest Service people pointed out the need for overnight camping facilities at or near trailheads. More and more people from out of the area are bringing their horses to the Okanogan. These people have traveled long distances and need a place to camp before taking off on their pack trips, as well as a place to camp and rest up before going back home.

Figure 3. Large Van used by its owners to haul horses and for sleeping when at camp site.

Summaries of information received through the interviews is found in the appendix. Table 1 lists some of the more pressing needs of the horse user. While these are recognized by recreation specialists on the Forest, the urgency of providing them is less than for the horse user. They have not recognized that the horse user's changing use patterns are causing this urgency. This is especially true of the trend toward wanting to camp in a developed site with provision for horses, near riding opportunities.

Table 1. Priority Needs of the Recreation Horse User

1) A place to camp with horses at or near trailheads.
2) Provisions for fires at dispersed horse campsites.
3) Horse campgrounds or provision to use part of regular developed sites
4) Minimum facilities at trailhead: horse water, loading ramps, hitch rails, parking for big rigs, and sanitation facilities
5) Information about opportunities and conditions
6) Day riding opportunities - loop trails

The biggest immediate need, from the horse user's standpoint, is to have a place to camp near the trailhead, and to be able to have a fire where they camp. The problem of trailhead camping will be solved over time. An immediate, interim solution is a change in policy which will provide for fires at selected dispersed campsites at or near trailheads. Better use of fire prevention patrols during high fire conditions could help alleviate the concern about human-caused fires. Areas selected for allowing fires outside campgrounds must be fireproofed like those in campgrounds. Fire prevention messages (put your fire out signs, etc.) can be posted, as reminders, at these designated areas.

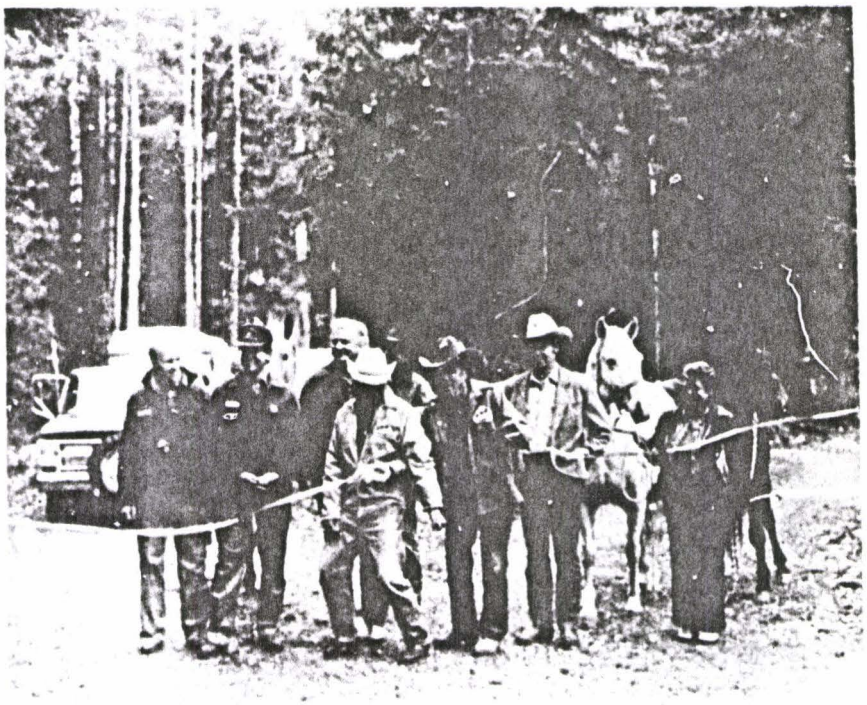

Figure 4 Dedication of cooperatively designed and built Horse Camp. Okanogan N.F. and Methow Chapter Back Country Horsemen of Washington.

Opportunities for the Recreational Horse User

Opportunities to meet the needs identified are available. Tables 2 and 3 show a sample of those identified by Forest Service recreation specialists and horse users. A more complete listing can be found in the interview summaries in the appendix. It should be noted that some of the suggestions made may not be feasible from the Forest Service's standpoint because of conflicts with other uses or management concerns about excessive use at or near a particular site.

IDENTIFIED BY FOREST SERVICE	IDENTIFIED BY HORSE USER
Tonasket Ranger District	
1. Horse camp at Baldy Pass	1. Horse camp at Baldy Pass
2. Trailheads on Mount Bonaparte at Napol, 4th of July, & South side	5. Horse camp 1/2 mile south of Tiffany Springs Camp
3. Horse camp at Salmon Meadows	6. Thirtymile Meadows: Dispersed camp
4. Relocate Iron Gate trailhead	7. Horse camp near Wagon Camp
	8. Tiffany Mountain trailhead: Dispersed camp
	9. Improvements at Iron Gate Trailhead
	10. Find and maintain old trail around Big Tiffany Mountain
Winthrop Ranger District	
1. Horse camp near Billy Goat trailhead	
2. Robinson Creek Trailhead camping	2. Horse camping at Robinson Creek trailhead
3. Hart's Pass horse camp at Layout Creek	
Twisp Ranger District	
1. Twisp River Horse Camp	1. Twisp River Horse Camp (Built in 1988)
2. Horse camp in Blackpine Lake area (not at existing campground)	2. Horse camping in Blackpine Lake area
3. Trailhead at Little Bridge Cr.	
4. Trail on Lookout Ridge	

Table 2. New opportunities identified to meet some of the horse user's needs

There may be opportunities in some developed campgrounds to provide for horses. People camping with horses want to have them close by, preferably within sight so they are available if problems develop. Campgrounds developed specifically for horses is the best solution, but is certainly not practical in all areas. If an existing campground is opened up for horse camping horses must be segregated from the general use camping sites. Areas in and around corrals, hitch racks or stalls tend to bc dirty and a haven for flies. Dedicating an entire camping loop, isolated from the rest of the campground to camping with horses is likely the most feasible solution.

Horse users do not feel that all campgrounds need to have provisions for horses. They do feel that horses need to be provided for in campgrounds at or near trailheads. Table 3 lists specific campgrounds on the forest where there may be opportunities to develop horse keeping facilities. The table shows those sites identified by forest recreation managers and the horse user. Only two of the sites were identified by both.

IDENTIFIED BY FOREST SERVICE	IDENTIFIED BY HORSE USER
Winthrop Ranger District	
1. Thirty Mile Camp	1. Thirty Mile Camp
2. Andrews Camp and Trailhead	2. Andrews Camp and Trailhead
3. Ballard Creek Camp	3.
4. Cutthroat Pass Camp and Trailhead	4.
5.	5. Early Winters Camp
6.	6. River Bend Camp
7.	7. Meadows Camp (Harts Pass)
8.	8. Lake Creek Camp
Twisp Ranger District	
1.	1. Roads End Camp
2.	2. War Creek Camp
Tonasket Ranger District	
None identified.	

Table 3. Existing campground identified with opportunities for, or a need to be opened for camping with horses.

There are numerous opportunities on or near the Forest for early season riding. While not identified as a high priority need for development on the National Forest there is an interest in having areas identified and developed for spring and early summer riding. Some of these areas are presently used by local equestians. Numerous specific ideas where early season riding opportunities exist or could exist were generated during the interviews. Some of the specific areas are:

Twisp District:
- Blackpine Lake area
- Volstead - Beaver Creek areas
- Squaw Creek area
- Paymaster Mine Flat area
- Radar Creek ski trails (opportunity for dual use)
- Finley Canyon - Pole Pick area.

Winthrop District:
- Wolf Creek area.

Tonasket District:
- Mount Bonaparte
- Toats Coulee area
- Salmon Meadows area
- Cayuse area
- Mount Hull

In addition, opportunities were mentioned on lands administered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Wildlife and USDI Bureau of Land Management. These ideas will be passed on to the appropriate agencies. In some instances there are opportunities for cooperation between the other agencies and the Forest Service. They will be explored.

Management Concerns

The primary concern of management is heavy use at destination points within the two Wildernesses on the Forest, especially those close enough for a one-day ride or hike. Heavy use problems in many areas comes from use by all users, not just those using horses. While restrictions may have to be imposed in some cases, there are management actions, such as relocation of trails, that may be more viable.

One concern of Forest personnel is conflict between users, such as mountain bikers. Others mentioned related to providing better service for the customer. Some questioned the need for fire restrictions at trailheads, others with how signing was done, and having adequate funds for upkeep of existing as well as new facilities. The need for a Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG) with horse-oriented recreation in mind was specifically mentioned.

Districts also were aware that many Forest Service people are not horse oriented. This is not necessarily bad but could result in an adversarial relationship. Training and orientation of employees involved in recreation and wilderness management will make them more aware of this problem. Contacts then with all users -- horse back riders, hikers, bikers, etc. -- would be on a positive basis.

DISCUSSION

The horse-using public is a small segment of those visiting the Okanogan National Forest for recreation. Horseback riding provided 22,800 visitor days of recreation on the Okanogan National Forest in 1986 (Chambers, 1987). This accounts for three percent of the total recreation visitor days on the Forest and 30 - 35 percent of the Wilderness and backcountry travel. Even though it is a small part of the total use, it is an important and growing use. While horse use on the Forest will probably increase, the percentage of total use will decrease or stay constant at best.

The interest in backcountry horseback riding in the State of Washington is strong, as indicated by membership in the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington. The group shows a membership of 1,200 to 1,400 members, which probably represents only a fraction of the recreational horse use in the Forests of Washington. So while such use may not become a large percentage of the Forest's total recreation activity, it is, and will continue to be, an important part of the recreation scene.

Horseback riding is not an activity that is going to grow by leaps and bounds. There are five elements of a recreation activity that appear to influence the choice of a recreationist's participation. If an activity has high marks in all five elements, it is likely to grow in popularity (Christy, 19--). Since only two of these elements is associated with horseback riding its rate of growth will continue slowly. It does provide a **strong image identification** and **opportunities to demonstrate skills**. The **image** associated with the activity is important only to those involved. However horseback riding is not **easy to participate** in, as it is expensive, requires specialized equipment and places to keep animals. And to those who don't ride, it is not a **comfortable and efficient use of leisure time**.

The many opportunities for horseback riding on the Okanogan National Forest recognized by forest managers are traditional backcountry trails and camps. Included are 1,546 miles of trails open to horses, 626,200 acres of wilderness, in the Lake Chelan Sawtooth and Pasayten Wildernesses, and 373,200 acres of semi-primitive, non-motorized area outside Wilderness (USDA Forest Service, 1986).

Needs and Opportunities

As one compares the identification of horse user's needs as seen by the recreation specialist with those of the horse users interviewed, there are surprising similarities. Managers have a fair idea of what is desired by the horse-using public largely because horse users have become more active and better organized. However ideas differ on where and how to provide the opportunities to meet these needs.

Recreation experience expectations of horse users are varied. Traditionally they have been primarily interested in a backcountry pack-in camping experience to semi-primitive, non motorized or primitive parts of the Forest. As the experiences desired by horse users change to wanting day ride opportunities, their expectations can be satisfied in other parts of the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS). Horseback riding is compatible all along the ROS from the primitive through rural and perhaps even into the urban setting (USDA, ROS Users Guide). The need for day rides and loop trails can be integrated into other management activities of the Forest. Old and new trails in areas under timber management can be located and developed into riding opportunities. Trail systems in these areas can incorporate parts of temporary road systems developed for logging operations. Some of these roads, as they revegetate, provide good opportunities for riding.

This wide range of opportunities then makes the manager look more closely at the expectation levels of the user and tries to provide for a wider range of experiences. Suggestions made by users, as presented in this paper, are a start to knowing where to locate facilities.

The interviews with horse users brought out the fact that horse use in the Forest is changing. In addition to the traditional long pack trips, many horseback riders are interested in day riding. Good day riding opportunities are available on the Forest, but existing facilities for this type of activity are not the best. The Forest's trails are, for the most part, long and to a specific destination. Trailheads do not provide for overnight camping, and campgrounds do not provide for camping with horses.

The Service's Commission of the National Recreation Strategy Project (Gehr et al, 1987) points out that the number and length of trails on National Forests exceeds the present demand but, at the same time, there is a demand for short loop and specialized trails, especially equestrian trails. While these Commission comments concerning loop and specialized trails are in reference to urban areas the interviews showed them to be also true in rural areas like the Okanogan country. The same commission found that "In most locations, Forest Service facilities have failed to keep pace with the needs and desires of the customer - forest visitors." Again this fits what the horse users said in their interviews. Forest Service campgrounds and trails do not meet their needs.

Involving the horse using public in the site location, design, and construction of facilities for a specialized recreating public helps form strong partnerships between the Forest Service and the user. This not only helps assure that facilities being built are needed and will be used, but also helps the Forest's limited budget go farther. It also builds a pride of ownership among all who help, financially or with labor, to construct and/or maintain the facilities. The importance of partnerships is being stressed nationally in such reports as the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (1986) and one of the six commission reports of the Forest Service National Recreation Strategy Project (DuLac et al, 1987), which shows the special emphasis of this strategy within the Forest Service.

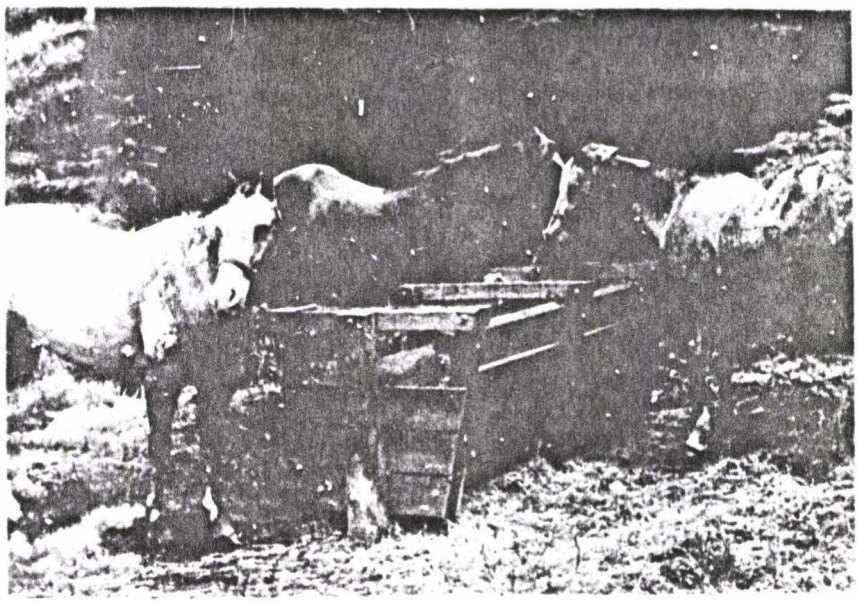

Figure 5. User designed and built feed bin and hitch Rail.

There are opportunities for the Okanogan National Forest to promote partnerships with adjacent land management agencies as well as the user. The Washington Department of Wildlife which manages several Wildlife Recreation Areas adjacent to the Forest can, in conjunction with the adjacent National Forest System lands, provide for some needed early season horseback recreation opportunities. The Fourteen Mile trailhead area provides for possible co-operative opportunities with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Currently the only destination out of this trailhead is Horseshoe Basin the eastern-most portal to the Pasayten Wilderness and it tends to be heavily used. The development of a trail system on DNR and BLM managed lands could provide diversified day rides out of this trailhead. Thus providing more opportunities for the equestrian and making better use of existing facilities. Also another entrance to the Pasayten could result which would lessen the impact on Horseshoe Basin.

Physically and mentally disadvantaged people are involved in horse-oriented recreation and must be remembered when designing and developing facilities for all recreation activities. Chuck Frayer located on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is available to help Forests within the Pacific Northwest Region plan and design facilities for the physically disadvantaged and advise on their appropiateness and feasibility.

The Forest is working in partnership with the horse user to start providing for their needs. Now the Forest must incorporate the present and future needs of the horse-using public with the needs of other recreationists in a planned capital investment program. Such a program will enable the Forest to take advantage of funding, as it is available, and of partnership opportunities.

Other Issues

During the interviews other issues came up that need to be discussed even though they may not relate directly to the project's objectives. These items surfaced in response to questions about problems or concerns the horse user had and to management concerns of the Forest Service. As these are discussed, recommendations for solutions will be offered, as appropiate.

User Conflicts

Much has been written about conflicts between recreation users. In fact, there appears to be more conflict between users within the outdoor recreation field than between other resource uses of the Forest. Recreation is thought of as a single entity, but in fact it encompasses many diverse activities, each having different costs and demands for natural resources (Clawson, 1985). One area of conflict within the field of outdoor recreation is between horse users and other users, specifically: hikers, hikers with llamas (and often burros), motorized users, and potentially mountain bikers.

Lucas and Stankey point out that, "Horsemen and hikers conflict, but to a much lesser degree than mechanized and nonmechanized visitors. Most hikers feel horse travel is appropriate in Wilderness; however, most of them prefer meeting other hikers and some of them are bothered by the physical damage horses cause on trails and at campsites" (Lucas and Stankey, 1974 and Stankey, 1973).

While this generalized statement is partially true in the Okanogan area horse users here felt they had a bigger conflict with hikers than with motorized users. It appears that, in general, motorbike users recognize the potential problems their machines cause the horseback rider and act in a manner to prevent problems. On the other hand most hikers are not familiar with horses and do not realize that

their actions can create problems for horseback riders, and can even cause wrecks when they meet on the trail. Research points out that hikers don't like to meet horses on the trail and that this conflict is generally one sided (Stankey, 1973). Courtesy and common sense by both the hiker and the horseback rider can solve the potentially serious problem. Good signing about trail courtesy at trailheads will help let all users know how they should act when meeting others on the trail. The horseback rider needs to realize that everyone doesn't know how to act around horses and pull off the trail themselves, stop, and let the other folks pass. Riding in small groups will help by enhancing the Wilderness experience of others.

There is not much that can be done about the problems caused by meeting other classes of animals, other than the rider being aware of the potential for problems and being ready. Some have pointed out that the mountain bike, which is new to the area, has the potential to cause some serious problems with other trail users. Bikes are quiet and could come up on horses or hikers in a manner that could cause a serious wreck. But the horse users interviewed aren't too concerned yet. Some have met mountain bikes on the trail and feel bike riders are going to have a hard enough time on most mountain trails and won't be moving fast enough to cause problems.

Management Attitudes

What managers do or do not do creates a perception, sometimes falsely, of how the agency feels about a particular user group. The Forest has had a reputation of being anti-horse. This perception is false, but the way forest officials have approached horse-oriented recreation has perpetuated the idea. Examples of actions that have fostered this notion are: The 1982 draft of the Forest Plan not addressing horse-use recreation, and, more recently, imposing fire restrictions outside developed campgrounds, and wording of a Wilderness closure order. Horse use is a legitimate recreation activity on this Forest and has been since before it was established as a National Forest in 1907. Since Forest Service personnel and the public has a long history of using horses for transportation management has taken for granted that horse riding is a legitimate use and that equestrians' needs are being met. A blind spot has resulted. This is realized now and efforts are underway to change the perception. It won't be easy because there are legitimate conflicts between management objectives and impacts caused by horses. Understanding the sensitivity of the issues will help horse users and the Forest resolve the conflicts jointly.

Most horse users involved with organized groups, like the Backcountry Horsemen, recognize management concerns of overuse and are willing to work with the Forest Service to try and solve this. The principles of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) (Stankey et, al, 1985) may be applicable to help develop understanding, define concerns, and provide solutions. In some cases the solution may be to recognize that an inconsistency exists and then adjust management expectations. Granted all users will not be a part of the procedures and all may not accept the solutions. However working with organized groups like the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and hiking clubs can help get the word out.

Many horse users have a real fear of being pushed out of the Forest, Wilderness in particular, by other users having what they perceive as more political clout. Involving them with LAC can help them meet their objectives to be able to continue to use horses in the backcountry and at the same time develop understanding about the need for and the fairness of the solution.

Many Forest Service workers in the backcountry are working afoot. They need to be aware that they can easily create an impression that the Forest Service is not sympathetic to the recreational

horse-using public. (This same kind of empathy is needed when contacting any recreational user, hikers or motorbikers, for example.)

Information Needs

The lack of information and the difficulty of getting it was pointed out by both Forest Service personnel and horse users interviewed. As more recreational horseback riders from outside visit the area it will be important that information is available for them. Many users now find it hard to get information about horse use opportunities and especially about up-to-date trail conditions. These are problems that can be remedied easily; they must be fixed.

Being able to respond to the public's information need is part of serving the public. An important tool in providing needed information is the Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG). The Forest has made limited use of ROGs. Many of the problems confronting the horseback recreationist can be solved by having good up-to-date Guides.

Current information about trail conditions requires better and more timely communications between field personnel and the person at the office information desk. The user must share the responsibility for trail condition information, however. They are often the only source of up-to-date trail information. There are a great many trails that Forest Service workers see only once or not at all during the season.

A computer-based Trail Information System (TRIS) is in use in the Seattle area through a partnership with the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Seattle City Library and Recreation Equipment Inc. It can be used to help provide current trail information (USDA Forest Service 1986a). This user-friendly, computer-based system is designed to provide greater access by the public to current trail information. Outlets are in limited locations in the Seattle area and probably are more accessible to hikers than horseback riders. Trail information from the Okanogan National Forest is in the system so it has the potential of providing information to the Okanogan's horse-using public as well as other users as the program is expanded to Okanogan Forest offices and places likely to be visited by horseback riders.

Signing is also a vital part of a recreation information system. Good destination signs are a must at trailheads and at trail junctions. There appears to be support and a need for trail-difficulty signing. It was suggested during the interviews that there is a need to define the level of difficulty for trails. This need has been debated within the Forest Service. In order to do this the Forest Service trail manager must have defined user objectives. That is, define whether the trail is primarily a hiker, motorized, or a horse trail, etc. Care must be taken that others are not prohibited from using the trail if there is no resource reason to do so. After the targeted user is established, the level of trail difficulty can then be defined. The difficulty level must be defined by the most difficult portion of the trail, even if it is only a short section. Novice horse users and those riding green horses need to know what to expect.

Coordination Needs

In order for the information contained in this paper to be useful it must be integrated into the management activities on the Forest. This integretation starts with the Forest Plan, specifically in the standards and guides that have been developed to direct the management of the Forest for the next ten to fifteen years.

Opportunities to meet the needs of the recreational horese user have been identified in this paper. As stated before, it may not be practical or desirable from the total forest management standpoint to develop all those mentioned. There are opportunities to provide for the horse users changing desires, as well as those of other specialized recreation pursuits. These opportunities can be provided if there is coordination with others uses of the Forest. Timber sale planning, for example, can and should include the needs of the recreationist, whether it be protection a hunters camp, an existing trail, or planning an equestrian trail incorporating temporary roads.

Coordination is taking place, but it needs to be improved if existing and potential recreation opportunites are to be provided in an integrated way with all resource needs and uses on the Forest. The proposed implementation schedule provided in the conclusions portion of this paper needs to be integrated as part of the total recreation implementation schedule in the Forest Plan. Not all projects proposed may prove to be feasible as coordination efforts with other resources and recreation needs are made. And, all feasible projects may not be identified. These changes will be taken care of as the Forest Plan implementation schedule will be adjusted yearly to allow for the changing conditions.

CONCLUSIONS

The recreational horse user does have some needs that have not been recognized by the Okanogan National Forest. These are a result of changing expectations and characteristics of the user. While pack trips into the backcountry are still a major orientation of these folks, many riders are becoming more interested in having a place to camp with their stock with day-ride opportunities close at hand.

Overnight camping facilities are needed at or near many of the Forest's trailheads. Many of those using the trailheads travel considerable distance getting to the Forest and desire a place to camp before leaving and upon returning from their pack trips. These facilities can be a dispersed type of camp as long as there are facilities for stock care and provision for camp fires during the closed fire season.

There are ample opportunities to provide for the recreational horse user on the Forest. These opportunities can be found throughout the recreation opportunity spectrum and provide opportunities to integrate recreation activities with management activities of other resources.

Recreation managers must make periodic efforts to find out the needs and expectations of various recreation user groups. This can be done by being aware of current findings of recreation research and by meeting with user groups, such as was done in the preparation of this paper.

Maintaining a strong empathy with the recreation customer is important. It is vital to make sure information is available to the customer and to the employees who are responding to customer's requests.

Recommendations

- Conduct a review of the Forest's use of Recreation Opportunity Guides. If lacking, as they seem to be, initiate a system that is indexed and useful at the information desk in the front office.

- Develop as Forest policy trail user objectives and difficulty ratings.

- Inventory suitable horse campsites at or near trailheads and fit them into the Forest's recreation capital investment program. Use the proposed implementation schedule in the appendix as a starting point.

- Consult Chuck Frayer of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on all facility planning to see if providing for the physically disadvantaged is appropriate and feasible.

- Provide opportunity for closed-season campfires at selected trailheads.

- Inventory and plan for day ride trails, preferably loop trails. Include these in the Forest's trails capital investment program. Use items in the proposed implementation schedule as a starting point.

- Take advantage of dual-use trail opportunities, such as cross country ski trails.

- Provide, in a conspicuous manner, trail courtesy information at trailheads.

- Set up communications procedures with trail crews and Wilderness rangers to keep information desks informed about trail conditions.

- Encourage all users, through organized groups, to keep the Forest Service informed of trail conditions, especially when problems exist.

- Continue current and encourage new partnerships with all users in developing trail opportunities and needed facilities.

- Investigate the feasibility of making usable the historic Chiliwist trail between the Okanogan and Methow Valleys (see implementation schedule in appendix for more information).

- Investigate the possibility of developing a cooperative trail program out of Fourteen Mile trailhead.

- Investigate the possibility of developing cooperative early season trail opportunities between Washington Department of Wildlife on Wildlife Recreation Areas and adjacent National Forest land.

RECREATION HORSE USE OPPORTUNITIES
on the
OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST

Proposed
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

PROJECT	WHEN
Tonasket Ranger District	
Complete Tiffany Mtn. Trailhead	FY 1989
Plan for Napol Trail Head	FY 1989
Construct Napol Trail Head (Coop with Horse Club)	FY 1990
Investigate and plan for moving Iron Gate trailhead	FY 1988
Reconstruct Iron Gate Trailhead and trail	FY 1989
Plan Fourth of July trailhead	Fy 1989
Plan for Horse camp at Baldy Pass	FY 1990
Plan horse bypass trail at Tiffany Lake	FY 1990
Relocate old trails North and South out of Baldy Pass	FY 1991
Reconstruct trails out of Baldy Pass	FY 1992
Twisp Ranger District	
Construct Twisp River Horse Camp (Coop Project)	FY 1988 (done)
Investigate feasibility of reestablishing the Chiliwist Trail. If feasible enter into partnership with county Historical Society and horse clubs to open.	FY 1988
Locate day ride opportunities in Paymaster mine Flat area	FY 1989
Investigate feasibity of providing more horse camping facilities at trailheads.	FY 1989 - 1990
Plan for Blackpine Lake Horse camp	FY 1990
Plan for trail on Lookout Ridge and other trails out of Blackpine Lake area	FY 1990
Develop Plans for Little Bridge Cr trailhead	FY 1991
Construct Little Bridge Cr trailhead	FY 1992
Winthrop Ranger District	
Plan new group use site	FY 1988
Plan for Horse camping at Robinson Cr trailhead	FY 1989
Develop camping facilities at Robinson Cr. Tr.hd.	FY 1990
Investigate and plan horse camping facilities at Rattlesnake or River Bend Camps	FY 1990
Plan Bridge Cr trailhead	
Plan East Cr. trail reconstruction	
East Cr. trail reconstruction	
Plan for horese camping at Andrews Cr and/or Thirty mile camp	
Plan horse camp and access trail at Layout Cr.	

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APPENDIX

List of Appendices

a. Prospectus
b. List of Those Interviewed
c. Summaries of Interviews

PROSPECTUS

RECREATION HORSE USE OPPORTUNITIES

on the

OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST

A project proposal to fulfill the requirements
for the Recreation Short Course
Professional Development for Outdoor Recreation Management

Clemson University
Fall 1987

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PROSPECTUS

Recreation Horse Use Opportunities on the Okanogan National Forest

Audience:

This paper is being written to the Forest Supervisor, Okanogan National Forest. While writing primarily to Forest Supervisor it is recognized that the proposals resulting from this project will have to be implemented by the District Rangers; thus it is also being written to the District Rangers on the Forest.

Issue Statement:

There is a need for the Okanogan National Forest to examine recreation horse use opportunities. Over the years the Forest has provided trail head facilities for horse users (as well as others) for it's back country trail system. The Forest assumed that this was adequately taking care of the needs and, as a result, did not address recreation trail opportunities in it's "Proposed Land and Resources Management Plan" (the Forest Plan.)

The trail using public, including horse users, responded during the Forest Plan comment period by asking that the Forest Plan address their concerns and needs. Since the comment period several incidents, including a recent letter in "The Trail Head News" (the news letter published by the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington) have reinforced the need to take an indepth look at the opportunities and needs of the recreational horse user.

The Forest Plan will recognize and put emphasis on recreational opportunities available on the Forest. This project will focus on one area of these opportunities. It is an area that has not been addressed in a specific systematic manner. The recreational horse using public is asking that the Forest be more responsive to their needs. This project will do just that and will provide a plan of action showing how they, the horse using public, can assist in getting the job done.

Objectives:

The purpose of this paper will be to inform the reader about the opportunities available and to persuade the Forest line officers to follow the proposed plan of action. While meeting this purpose there will be three specific objectives:

1) Explore the needs (market research) of the recreational horse user of the Okanogan National Forest.

2) Explore the opportunities available, with emphasis on new opportunities, for meeting the needs of the recreational horse user.

3) Prepare an implementation schedule, under the umbrella of the Forest's "Land and Resource Management Plan", that can be implemented involving local and state wide horse user groups.

INTERVIEW LIST

1. Duane Kikendall, President, Methow Backcountry Horsemen

2. Dave Reynaud, Past President, Methow Backcountry Horsemen
   (Unable to contact)

3. Jim Pruitt, President, Okanoagan Backcountry Horsemen

4. Betty Wagoner, (Active horsewomen)

5. Cam Pierce, (Active horsewomen Note: interviewed as FS employee not as horse user.

6 Jeri Hamilton, Spokane WA. Member Board of Directors Backcountry horsemen of Washington

7. Jerry Theis, Omak, WA; Okanogan Backcountry Horsemen and Board member Backcountry Horsemen of WA.

8 Ken Wilcox, Leavenworth, WA. Executive Director Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

9. Francis Gregory, Member, Okanogan Backcountry Horsemen

10 Adventist Horsemen's Association-Okanogan Chapter. (Comments received when attending a chapter meeting.

INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Recreation Horse Use Opportunities
on the
Okanogan National Forest

Name_____
Organization_____
Date._____

Note: when used for inservice interviews the same questions plus question 8 will be asked, but to be answered from the management point of view.

Interview format.

I. Expain what I am doing and why.
   1. Need the ideas and desires of the horse user!
   2. Will balance the Forest's management concerns with the needs & desires of the horse user and with the opportunities to meet these needs.
   3. Objectives of the project are:
      a. Determine the needs of the recreation horse user.
      b. Find out what opportunities are available to meet these needs.
      c. Prepare an implementation schedule that will allow the formation of partneships between the horse user and the Forest to complete.

II. Questions for interview.

   1. What do the horse users need when they come to the Forest for recreation? What kind of facilities are needed?

   2. What are some specific problems that confront the horse user on the Forest?

   3. Are there some opportunities to develop new facilities to help meet some of the needs you have mentioned?

4. Where on the Okanogan N.F. are facilities for the recreation horse user needed?

5. Are facilities for handling horses needed in all campgrounds on the Forest?

   Which ones?

5. Are there any areas where recreation horse use could be encouraged?

6. Are there any specific problems you've encountered on the forest that could be identified and/or solutions offered in this paper?

7. Early season use areas seem to be lacking or not known. Do you have any ideas of where early use could be encouraged?

9. How did you become interested (involved) in back country horse recreation?

10. Are there any management concerns relating to horse use on the District (Forest.)?

Recreation Horse Use Questionnaire
- The User -
- Summary -

	Duane Kikendall	Adventist Horsemen's Association	Jeri Hamilton	Jerry Theis	Betty Wagoner	Francis Gregory	Jim Pruitt
(1) What are the needs - facilities needed?							
- More horse camps	X		X				
- Place to tie up overnight at trail-heads - i.e. camp with min improvement	X	X	X		X	X	
- Courtesy by all users of Forest		X	X				
- Trails - lots of them			X	X			
- Inside Wilderness							
trail system				X			
horse feed				X			
able to camp near (not at) lakes				X			
- Outside Wilderness							
picnic tables				X	X		
horse feed				nice			
fire pits (rings)			X	XX	X	X	X
sanitation - loading ramps							
water (at heavy used areas)				X	X		X

	Duane Kikendall	Adventist Horsemen's Association	Jeri Hamilton	Jerry Theis	Betty Wagoner	Francis Gregory	Jim Pruitt
- Place to tie horses							
in backcountry				X	X		
at trailheads					X	X	X
- Place to feed horses at camp					X		
- Loop trails - 5-7 miles	X					X	X
- At trailheads desirable to have 2 directions to go						X	
- Unloading ramp (1/2 ton PU's)					X		X
- Adequate parking							X
- Good signing on trails							X
- Education messages							
at trailheads		X					
- Trail difficulty marking		X			X		
at trailheads							
- Place for large parties				X			
- Guide pamphlet					X		

	Duane Kikendall	Adventist Horsemen's Association	Jeri Hamilton	Jerry Theis	Betty Wagoner	Francis Gregory	Jim Pruitt
(2) Specific problems confronting the horse user							
- Confusion between Nat. Park & F.S. Wilderness	X						
- Lack of camp facilities at Oval Lake	X						
- Meeting hikers who don't understand (or like) horses, etc.		X					
Problems meeting burros and llamas		X					
- Trail maintenance slow			X				
- Need to be able to use power equip			X				
- Lack of trails being cut out in lower areas				X			
- No fires outside camps during closure				X			
- Lack of rules and/or knowledge of in camp grounds				X			
- Horses being tied up left and not used				X			
- Lack of place to camp near trailheads					X		
- Ramps too high for pickups					X		
- Bogs in trails						X	
- Problems of telling horse users to stay away from attractions (lakes)				X			
- Cars parking in front of loading ramps						X	

(3) Opportunities to develop new facilities

& (4)
- Construct places to keep horses outside and at one end of developed camp. Facilities must be within sight of campsite.
- Joint use of cross-country ski trail - skiers in winter - horses in summer.
- Unloading facilities and dispersed canp site at 30 mile meadows.
- Camp about 1/2 mile west and south of Tiffany Springs Camp.
- Camp near Wagon Camp.
- Camp near old trailhead to Baldy Mtn.
- Camp near Starvation Mtn (no water).
- Camp at Roger's Lake or Baldy Pass.
- Clean out old trail from Lightning Creek to Wagon Camp.
- Lots of opportunity for horseback riding in Tiffany---> Beaver Meadows---> Lightning Creek area.
- Foggy dew - horse camping facilities.
- Improvement of Irongate Road
  Horse Camps at:
  Gold Creek area at switchback on Rd 200 up Foggy Dew Creek.
  Area about 3 miles from Foggy Dew bridge, up N. Fork Gold Creek (on Rd. 4340).
  At Salmon Meadows Trailhead (i.e., new trailhead on Tiffany Mtn Trail).
  At Robinson Creek Trailhead.
  Perhaps in Maple Mtn area.
  Blackpine Lake area - need facilities - Hoodo Pass Trailhead Loop Trails.
- Six hitch rails at Glacier Pass (feed limited).
  Need to find old trail around big Tiffany - add to diversity of area.
- Trails to Beaver Lake (out of Loup Loup Summit).

(5) Horse use facilities needed in all campgrounds?
- No
- Only in campgrounds where a person can ride out of either on a trail or cross-country.
- At trailhead campgrounds.
- Along Twisp River and Chewuck River within 1/2 to 1 mile of trailhead.
- Meadows Campground near Harts Pass (needs horse w er).
- Riverbend (east end of camp).
- Early Winters.
- Thirtymile.
- Roads end.
- War Creek.
- Blackpine Lake.
- Andrews Creek.
- Lake Creek.

(6) Where should horse use be encouraged?
- Copper Chance Mine (?).
- On WDW Lands (Pipestone Canyon for example).
- Finley Canyon - Pole Pick for day rides.

- DNR Lands off South Summit.
  - In conjunction with cross-country ski trails.
  - Crystal Butte - Pontiac Ridge.
  - Trail up Cedar Creek to North Creek then up N. Fork Twisp River over Copper Pass and up Bridge Creek to Highway 20.
  - Tiffany Area (need designated camp in Honey Moon Pass).
  - Mt. Bonaparte Area - Fourth of July Trailhead (near Rogow cabin west side Bonaparte to Napol Trailhead.
    - need to look for loop and an opportunity for early season use.

(7) Specific problems that might be addressed in this paper.
- Party size - there is some abuse of this.
- Don't start fires on piles of old hay or manure.
- Not being able to have fires at trailheads and dispersed camps.
- Lack of places to camp with horses.
- Garbage at remote lakes.
- Lack of places to tie up horses - away from view of backpackers and so they won't be tied to trees.
- Need good timely reports on trail conditions, the information pipeline breaks down.
- Hikers approaching horses improperly.

(8) Potential early season use areas.
- Bonaparte Mountain.
- Toats Coulee area??
- Black Pine Lake Area - Loop Trail potential
- Volstead - Beaver Creek area.
- Lower areas around Tiffany i.e., Salmon Meadows.
- Cayuse Area.
- Finley Canyon - Pole Pic area.

(9) Other ideas/concerns.
- Need horse gates in areas like Volstead/Beaver Creek where roads are gated closed to motor vehicles.
- Being able to use horses on the Forest is very important to those who own and use them.

General Comments:

Duane Kikendall, President, Methow Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of Washington.

- Need more horse camps like one being built in Twisp River to disperse use - only one will result in localized problems.
- Doesn't see a conflict between horses and bicycles; at least on Twisp River trail.
- Need more places to keep horses overnight at trailheads - to help disperse use.
- Need to keep in mind that horses do use trails even though they are low impact - so need to clear high enough that horses can get through.
- Scafold Creek - several places trail could be better designed to eliminate erosion. A new section was put in on a very steep grade. It will be gullied after the first rain.
- If National Park is going to require hauling feed, more stock will be required (thereby adding to the impact rather than diminishing it).
- There are some little used trails in Oval Lakes area that could be maintained and used to discourage use at places like Oval Lakes
  - i.e.: - West Fork Buttermilk (bogs need repair)
    - Scafold Ridge Trail (note hazardous road for trailer)
- Don't spend money cutting weeds (forbs) back - spend the time and money cutting back brush, trees, and fixing bogs.

General Comments by Jeri Hamilton:

- Need to have on bulletin boards in a manner that draws attention, Rules of Courtesy - how to approach and pass stock.
- Corrals and feed racks are nice to have, would rather see money spent on trails.
- Feels Wilderness Trails are going to deteriorate if power equipment cannot be used.
- Has a hard time understanding the concept of not having designated camps in the back country "changing the sacrifice areas" asks "why create others?"

General Comments by Jerry Theis:

- Aesthetics of fire important to many - believes fire permits OK during high fire danger rather than total closure.
- Need to watch dispersed camping sites for sanitation problems.
- Should be a provision for a person to get a fire permit during closed fire season.
- Need a place to tie a horse near Tiffany Lake so a person can go down and fish.
- Need to patrol Tiffany Lake area more - lots of garbage.
- Don't eliminate horses from going cross-country.
- Need a policy if and where horse camping is allowed as to how close to camp horses are allowed - max. distance away shouldn't be over 100 - 120 feet.

- Need a place for large groups and if near lake designate a camp place 1/4 mile from the lake.
- Mixed feelings about question on encouraging use. If encouraged you tend to encourage over use.

General Comments by Betty Wagoner:

- All people have to tie their horses correctly - including outfitters (and F.S.) or the education program B.C.H. of WA trying to do isn't going to do any good.
- Need places to camp where horses can be kept within sight.
- Believe people want to get out and see scenic views when riding on day trips.
- Need information - no way of finding out where to go with horses, i.e., pamphlet with:
    - distance to destinations i.e., lakes
    - unloading places
    - camping opportunities
    - trail difficulty (especially those dangerous to novice or novice horse)
    - loop trail possibilities
    - dangers of roads - steepness, etc. i.e., to Crater Creek Trailhead (and to Irongate)
  - Winthrop needs to have something like this.
- Receptionists need to have better - more up to date information on trail conditions.
- Trail crew should radio in when trail is opened up.
- (Last year) Winthrop's policy of logging out all trails first - quickly - good.
- Forest has come a long way in understanding and listening to horsemen's concerns since PUD meeting a few years ago.

General Comments by Frances Gregory:

- More people want places to camp with their animals and day ride - good to have more than one place to go out of the camp.
- Its hard to go into the back country without leaving some sort of impact - (no matter how hard he tries).
- If one of the clubs is willing to work on a project there is probably a need and it will be used.
- Perhaps some old trails that clubs could open up.
- Corrals - OK but only one party can use unless they can be partitioned off.
- Hitch racks good - they are <u>not</u> a luxury - keep folks from tying to trees.
- In response to question: Tie stalls used on the Umatilla.
- Trails he has been on in the Sawtooth are good - hiked Crater Creek Trailhead.
- Feels population of horse users is going to increase.
- Seems like places to ride are in a premium.
- Personally likes packtrips but most locals looking for dayrides or weekend trips.
- The Methow River trail needs some work - specifically brushing.

General Comments by Jim Pruit:

- Prefers hitchracks to corrals - corrals can cause trouble if strange horses are put in together.

General Comments by Adventist Horsemen's Assoc.:

- Need public information board to respect private land.
- Need to clean up old barbed wire between Forest Service (National Forest) and State land in Cayuse Area.
- Use trailhead bulletin boards for trail courtesy messages.

Questionnaire Summary
District Responses

(1) What does Horse User need ...?

	TON	TWP	WNP
Good Access Road			X
Room to Turn Around and Park	X		X
Loading and Unloading Ramps	X	X	X (Minority)
Hitch Rails	X	X	X
Corrals	(Must be Partitioned)		X When Overnighting
Camping w/Horse Facilities	X	X	X
All lengths of trails - from 2-3 hr (day ride) to several day Backcountry	X	Short Day Rides	X
Loop Trails			X
Water	X	X	
Stall with Feed Bunk	X		
Outhouses		X	

(2) What are Specific Problems that Confront the Horse User ..?

Not being able to Build Fires	X	X	
Lack of Horse Camping Facilities		X	X
Mtce at Horse Sites			X
Lack of Short Rides			X
Lack of Information	X (By our People)		X
Rough Roads (Road Access)	X		
People Problems (Other Users)	X		
People Not Sure of Rules & Regs	X		

(3) Are there some opportunities to develop new facilities ...?

(4) Where on Okanogan are facilities needed?

Tonasket: -
- old trail goes by Irongate to Horseshoe Basin - with new trailhead off Toats Coulee Rd #39 or back closer to Rd 39 on Rd 500.
- Perhaps back end of Sweat Creek Campground.
- Minimal trailhead facilities (no camping) at Bonaparte Mtn. trailheads: S. Side trail , Napol Trailhead, 4th of July Trailhead.
- Salmon Meadows - possible Horse Camp (need to look at conflict with existing camp).
- Tiffany Area - Need alternative trail route so horses stay away from lake (with place to tie horses for those who wish to fish or go to the lake) and off hiker trail to the lake
- Baldy Pass (potential overnight camping area) with new access North to North Summit Trail and South to Beaver Meadows.

Winthrop: - Group Site District is currently working on
- 30 mile campground
- Andrews Camp and Trailhead
- Horse Camp near Billygoat Trailhead - no place to camp at Trailhead - would require trucking from Camp to Trailhead.
- Robinson Creek Trailhead (1 or 2 camping sites)
- Cutthroat Trailhead
- Harts Pass at Layout Creek - then rebuild trails out of camp to connect with those out of Harts Pass
- One end of Ballard Creek Camp
- Chewuck Camp or along 8 mile road
- Twenty mile area possibility at 2 helicopter landings on Rd 700 up twenty mile creek (this may create a conflict with motorbikes)
- Tiffany Area
- Along Highway 20 - East Creek and Canyon Creek Trailheads

Twisp: - Twisp River Horse Camp
- Perhaps up Libby Creek - but water may be a problem
- Black Pine Lake Area Horse Camp (not at existing campground)
- Trailhead with fire rings on Little Bridge Creek
- Several existing campgrounds with low use loops could have the low use loop - or new loop constructed - and redesigned for horse camping
- Trail on Lookout Ridge

(5) Facilities for horses in existing Developed Camps

Twisp: - Selected sites only

Winthrop: - Selected sites only (see 3 and 4)

Tonasket: - No - Need to develop camping at trailheads.

(6) Where should horse use be encouraged

Tonasket: - Opportunity in Clackamas and Jackson Creek areas
- Tiffany

Winthrop: - Pasayten Rim Area - Setting Sun Mtn Trail to Sunrise Peak Area

Twisp: - Radar Creek Area - use existing cross-country ski trails and corral used by grazing permittee
- Lookout Ridge

(7) Specific Problems Encountered

Twisp: - District receptionists not knowing what is and is not available for recreational horse users.

Winthrop: - Parking for bigger rigs
- Damage from horses being tied (near Billy Goat and 30 Mile)
- debris - old hay and manure.

Tonasket: - More horse users in the area - need to identify opportunities

(8) Early Season Use Opportunities

Tonasket: - DNR and BLM lands on Chopaka (access out of S 14 mile Trailhead

- Mt Hull area (coordinate with BLM and WDWL

Winthrop: - Wolf Creek (currently being improved) no camping but dispersed camping opportunities

Twisp: - Squaw Creek Area (Permittee Corral)
- Paymaster Mine flat area.
- Radar Creek area (ski trails)

(9) Other Ideas or Concerns?

Twisp: - Need Recreation opportunity guide for horsemen
- Are fire closures really needed in areas that have low fire risk? (i.e., trailheads)
- Excellent opportunities on WDWL lands

Winthrop:

Tonasket:

(10) N/A

(11) Management Concerns

Tonasket: - Conflict with (Horses ?) at Beaver Creek
- Day use of Horseshoe Basin
- The need to build a strong no trace camping ethic as a part of the Western Horse Camping culture (this is in conflict with the past and (to many) the present western horse camping style
- Incompatible and illegal uses of chainsaws
- Caches in Wilderness

Winthrop: - Torn up ground - trails (our problem)
- Lake shores
- Campgrounds (?)
- Hassles between horsemen and hikers (not amajor problem)
- Potential conflict horses and motorbikes in twenty mile area
- Mountain bike conflicts with horses (potential future problem)
- Heavy use and impact of use (by all users - hikers and horsemen) at Black Lake in Wilderness

Twisp: - Fire prevention if fires are allowed at end of each road i.e. trailheads. Solution? - issue fire permits for isolated fire rings?
- Maintenance of facilities (having adequate funds)
-

Money for facility improvements up front (?) or for replacing when needed.
- Positive Signing.

- Smell and flys associated with horse camps (especially when made a part of regular developed campgrounds.
- Day use at close in lakes - such as Lewis Lake
- F.S. backcountry people tend to not be horse oriented so working with horsemen tends to be adversorial
- Large horse groups

Notes - Comments - Twisp (Keith & Cam)

- Need to have a campground where recreation horse users can camp and have their horses with them, with trails for day rides or short overnight trips (using the campground as a base camp) close-by.

Notes - Comments - Winthrop (Curtis & Kelvin)

- Horses from different parties need to be kept separated.
- Horse campers should be separated from other campers - OK to have both uses in same campground.
- Horsemen have less concern for range of trail difficulty i.e., difficult trails not asked for.
- Horsemen have different motivation, horsemen are looking for opportunity to work and use horses while hikers are going to a destination therefore scenic opportunities, while important to horseback riders they are not as important.
- Most folks from outside the local area going to the backcountry
- All are looking for a place to camp where their animals are within sight.
- - People who are not used to horses do get upset when they see a horse near a stream - concern about polluted water.

Notes - Comments - Tonasket (John and Bill)

- 2 or 3 categories of categories of those using horses in Backcountry Recreation

  1 - Trailhead Users - uses trailhead to get to backcountry
  2 - Horse Campground - i.e., interested in day rides - loop trails in, and out of camp.
  3 - Dispersed Site User - Facilities not needed - unload from trailer to on road bank and ride out - usually locals.

  Need to sign and design logically i.e., drive around right to left (i.e., Iron Gate Trailhead).